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**October 1997**



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



**Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 16521**  
**Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935**

2 Renew before 10/30/98  
 ROBERT & DOROTHY ROLLER  
 WB7WHT KC0BSY  
 4846 HERNDON CIR.  
 COLO. SPGS., CO 80920



# 0-Be7at



## Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association Officers and Directors

President: Jeff Boyes	NØJLH	577-6029	jboyes@usa.net
Vice-Pres: Aaron Pelouze	KD6FLM	282-9715	apkd6flm@aol.com
Secretary: Ron Deutsch	NKØP	593-8352	deutschra@aol.com
Treasurer: Rob Roller	WB7WHT	282-0204	roller@usa.net
Ø-Beat Ed: Bill Pierce	KDØJU	550-0406	kdøju-1@juno.com
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*Board Mbr: Dennis Major	KBØSXC	631-6774	dennis.major@mci.com
Board Mbr: Al Vrooman	NØCMW	520-5650	nøcmw@rmi.net
*Board Mbr: Greg Tarcza	WA2OOD	597-7064	gregt@col.hp.com

\*This Officer/Director is completing the second year of the two-year term to which they were elected.

The Ø-Beat is published monthly in the interest of the members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc., PO Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935. For membership and subscription information see the last page of this publication. Monthly advertising rates: Full page, \$48; Half page, \$24; Quarter page, \$12; Business card, \$6. These rates are billed quarterly. Send your ad requests and payments to: PPRAA, PO Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935.

Check out the PPRAA page on the World Wide Web! Go to: <http://www.qsl.net/ppraa>

Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements is the 20th of each month. Submissions are accepted in any form. Articles should be sent directly to the Ø-Beat Editor (email to [kdøju-1@juno.com](mailto:kdøju-1@juno.com) is preferred.) Permission is granted to reprint articles provided credit is given to both the author and this publication.

### License Exams

License examinations sponsored by the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association are held on the 2nd Saturday of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

Testing takes place at 9 A.M. at:

Denver Technical College  
225 South Union  
Colorado Springs

Everyone is seated on a walk-in basis. Those wishing to take an exam should bring the following items:

1. \$6.25 (preferably a check/money order made out to ARRL/VEC) for any exam other than element 1A or 2.
2. Picture identification.

3. A copy of your current amateur radio license, and/or a copy of any examination credit you have, as well as the signed original. We keep the copies.

4. A pen, pencils, and a calculator if you need one.

If you have any questions, call Erik Mugele, KGØXE at 596-5345. Please do not call Denver Technical College.

### Committee Chairpersons/Contacts

Ø-Beat Editor	Bill Pierce	KDØJU	550-0406
Activity	Renay Boyes	KAØROY	577-6029
Auditing	Any Volunteer's ?		
Asset	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290
Historian	Jody Borst	KAØROZ	634-3995
Interference	Bill Petty	NØNJX	591-2116
Membership	Les Borst	KCØNC	634-3995
Programs	Aaron Pelouze	KD6FLM	282-9715
Publicity	Any Volunteer's ?		
Public Service	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290
Swapfest '98	Carlos Caro	KBØREI	632-1569
Technical Instruction	Linda Hedges	KBØRKW	520-9238
VE Testing	Erik Mugele	KGØXE	596-5345

### Other Organizational Liaisons

ARES Liaison	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290
CCARC Liaison	Ron Deutsch	NKØP	593-8352
RACES Liaison	Bryan Curl	NØLUF	575-8400

### Reminder — General Membership Meeting

The next General Membership Meeting of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association will be on the second Wednesday of this month at the Mt Calvary Lutheran Church, 1318 N. Circle Drive. The meeting will start at 7 PM.

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## NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

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This is to provide written notice to all members that a proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation will be made at the October 8, 1997 annual meeting of the PPRAA. In summary, the changes are to include the proper wording to allow us to become a 501(c)3 tax exempt corporation under the Internal Revenue Code, and to remove any text which would prevent such from happening. No other changes are being made to the Articles of Incorporation. Copies of both the original Articles of Incorporation from 1965 and the proposed amended Articles of Incorporation will be provided at the meeting for those members which intend to cast a vote to review prior to voting.

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General Membership Meeting  
September 10, 1997

Jeff, NØJLH, opened the meeting at 7:05 PM by welcoming guests and having the membership introduce themselves.

Rob gave the Treasurers report for August 1997 as \$235 income, \$373 expenses leaving a balance from all sources of \$6410.21. Ron thanked all who helped at the club picnic, with special

thanks to Glenn NØCMW's son (in law) for helping with the cookin' and cleanin'.

Jody thanked NKØP and NØCMW for their help in getting the club history material together.

Aaron gave information on the next few programs: Oct-elections; Nov-Packet radio; Dec-Xmas party; Jan-Homebrew night.

Swapfest committee reported the contract is signed with the High School for May 2nd. Tables \$12. The name will be adjusted to include computers as well as radios. The next Swapfest meeting will be the 1st Saturday in October at the Falcon Police Substation. Rosie suggested changing the Swapfest meeting date due to a conflict with another meeting. Members decided not to change it for now.

Dan, KBØPPM discussed JOTA the 17th and 18th of October. A station will be set up at the United Methodist Church. Volunteers are still needed to help.

Jeff, reminded everyone that next month is election of officers and board members for the new year. He also mentioned that we would need a new Publicity Chairman due the resignation of Aaron.

No further Novice/Tech classes are planned for 1997, however, a code class is planned to start mid October and will run for 7 weeks. Contact: Linda, KBØRKW.

NØNTX presented HAMMY to Rob, WB7WHT for his support of the MIR communication project.

Dick, K2LCT reported 5 Rohn tower sections were stolen from his QTH in the Black Forest area.

The following motion was made by Rob, WB7WHT and 2nd by Ted, NØNKG:

We, the Members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc, hereby express our intent to become a nonprofit corporation as defined in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, for educational and charitable purposes. In doing so, we direct and authorize the following:

1. We direct the PPRAA Board of Directors to propose amendments to the Articles of Incorporation (in whole or in part) and the By-Laws, as required, which specify our intent to become a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. The proposed amendments are to be submitted to the Ø-Beat for publication in the October issue of the Ø-Beat,

along with public notice that the amendments will be brought before the member-ship for approval at the October 1997 annual meeting.

2. We authorize the expenditure of \$465 (or, the current 501(c)(3) application fee, if it has changed), to accompany the application form, which is to be prepared by the October 1997 annual meeting, and the expenditure of \$25, if necessary, to refile the articles.

After some discussion Ron, NKØP, called for a vote. The motion passed 31 to 9 with 2 votes disqualified.

Tom, NØNTX, presented a very nice program on Satellite Communication.

The next board meeting will be at the QTH of KCØNC. Jeff closed the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Submitted by Ron, NKØP,  
PPRAA Secretary.

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#### PPRAA Board Meeting September 15, 1997

The PPRAA Board of Directors met at Les's QTH on September 20, 1997 at 7PM. The following members and guests were present: NØJLH, NKØP, KAØROZ, KD6FLM, WA2OOD, WB7WHT,

NØCMW, WBØMHP, KDØJU, KBØSXC, KCØNC, WBØRTF.

Jeff got the case number for the stolen club generator and will check recovered property section for it. Jeff will contact Harvey to see if he has the club display board.

Rob is working on a continuity binder with job descriptions for club offices and committee chairs.

Les is working on a suggestion box for club meetings.

The board discussed nominations for offices and board members for the October General elections. The club By-Laws were reviewed. The following changes in the PPRAA By-Laws are presented for the October general meeting:

- 1) Article III Section 3, last sentence: change the word concurrent to consecutive.
- 2) Article X Section 1 last sentence, change the word full to voting.
- 3) Article XII section c, change the last sentence to read: All assets of the PPRAA shall be distributed as specified in the Articles of Incorporation.

The club Articles of Incorporation will be presented for revision at the October General membership meeting. (Please see separate notice, copies of the articles and proposed revisions will be provided at the general membership meeting).

The following corrections are made to the August Board minutes.

- 1) Minutes should reflect that KCØBSY was in attendance.
- 2) Greg's call is WA2OOD not WAØOOD.
- 3) Les brought up the fact that we have a committee POC (not chairman as the minutes indicate) that is not a current club member.

Submitted by Ron NKØP,  
PPRAA Secretary

---

#### Treasurer's Report for period ending 8/31/97

For the general fund:  
 $253.00 - 373.54 = (120.54)$   
Income - Expenses = Gain/(Loss)

Contact me for a more detailed report.

501(c)(3): At the last club meeting I made the motion that the members state their desire to

get the 501c3 status and that we approve the \$465 application fee and the cost to refile the articles of incorporation. The motion passed with about a 3/4 majority of the voting members present. So you've shown a desire to get the tax exempt status. There's still one more step in the process, and that's to amend the articles of incorporation.

The current articles of incorporation, written and filed in 1965, mention that we are incorporated as a nonprofit corporation, but it doesn't go far enough in the eyes of the IRS. So in order to follow through on your desire to have 501c3 status we need to amend the articles and bylaws as appropriate.

There is a notice to this effect elsewhere in the Zero Beat. We must add in the proper words that show we are willing to abide by the Internal Revenue Code for 501c3, and that we have a primary purpose which is charitable and educational.

And when you get right down to it, that's what we already are, it's just not documented that way. In fact, there are a couple of references to things like social gatherings, amusement, recreation, and the like that should be removed. This is not to say that we all of a sudden won't have social gatherings and

enjoy ourselves otherwise, but it just solidifies our primary purpose of being a charitable and educational organization. (You can rest assured that other nonprofits, like United Way, and a few others, hold Christmas parties, or have picnics.) Club business and activities will continue as usual.

So the last step is to get the articles amended and filed. At the board meeting we discussed two solutions: a complete rewrite of the articles, or a line-by-line editing of the existing articles. The complete rewrite is the simplest way to go, and it doesn't change anything about the current

purpose of the PPRAA. A line-by-line amendment is certainly possible, but it can be a tedious way to review the articles.

Nevertheless, both are presented here for your review. Jeff and Ron will make the final call on how to handle the amendment.

A vote will be taken at the October 1997 annual meeting in order to accept the amendment to the articles. Again, if you have an interest in seeing this measure brought to fruition, I urge you to attend.

Raffle: I understand from Carlos Caro KBØREI that the contract has been signed for reserving Doherty H.S. for the 1998 swapfest. I should be able to apply for the raffle license as

soon as I get some more details from Carlos. After the license is in hand we can get tickets printed, and as soon as the prizes are in hand we can start selling. The earlier the better, as we've learned from years past.

-wb7whl

---

From the Membership Chair

Please welcome new member

Katie Freidel KCØBSX

The following need to contact the Treasurer:

Bill	NØTUL
Thomas	KBØYCP
Chuck	KEØWTX
Treena	KBØWTY
Jim	KIØAD
Jennie	KBØQFY
Harvey	K1JU
Michael	KBØUXN

We enjoyed having you with us. Come back soon.

Pat	KBØREF
Bill	KBØUVE
Donna	
Jeff	KGØYE
Deborah	KBØWIX
Steve	KBØVJR
Cindy	KBØWXA
Billie	KBØUWN

---

VEs: The Silent Team



On the second Saturday of each even-numbered month, a team of VEs silently sets up shop at Denver Technological College on S Union, and tests prospective amateurs and amateurs seeking upgrades. They do their job, quietly and efficiently, seeking and getting very little recognition.

Yet their job is a very important job to the club and to amateur radio in general. These people are our first line of representatives and can become the stereotype of the amateur in our city. These VEs see all kinds of people: amateurs upgrading, never-before-licensed spouses and children of amateurs, students from our amateur classes, others who haven't had any contact with an amateur before but have been studying on their own, or a couple that doesn't know anything about amateur radio but wants to communicate with each other when separated.

Our VEs also do make special trips and conduct tests for the people taking the amateur classes. Making the test part of the class allows the students to take their test immediately after the course is over, rather than wait until a month or so goes by for the Saturday session.

When these people come to the test session, they're greeted by our friendly VEs and proceed to take either a code or written test, or both. Some will pass; some will fail. Regardless, the VEs encourage everyone to come back next time and either retake a test, or continue to work towards General or higher so they can become a VE themselves.

We have an excellent team of VEs in our area, who are all certified by the ARRL/VEC. VEC? VE? Who or what are these? A VE is a volunteer examiner, and a VEC is the volunteer examiner coordinator. The VEC is not a person, the VE is. The VEC is an organization that has agreed to coordinate the efforts of VEs to prepare and administer exams for amateur licenses. The PPRAA has a team of VEs that have been certified by the ARRL, and that uses ARRL/VEC procedures and tests when administering exams. Prior to 1983 the FCC conducted all amateur exams. Due to budget constraints a law was passed amending the Communications Act of 1934 permitting the FCC to use volunteers to administer exams. The ARRL/VEC began coordinating exams in 1984.

All of our VEs have an interest in helping others get their ticket. It takes more than just a desire to

help, but that desire is the most important requirement.

According to the FCC, you must also be 18 or older, never have had an amateur license suspended or revoked, and hold a General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class license. Our team of VEs have included KGØXE, K4YCD, KØSU, WU3H, WB7WHT, KL7IPV, KG5N, NH6ZW, KGØYT, KDØNB, KFØWF, NØLA, WØVO, KAØWWT, AAØVO, KØIRP, KAØGWS, KQØS, KBØKID, WØRW, WB7VHR, KJ6IV, KD6TRU, KFØUR, KO6TN, AAØUF, KBØREH, NØPRU, AD4ER, NØTDS, KO4WH and KBØVOH, who is too young to be a VE (you must be 18 or older) helps out where she can. (I hope I didn't leave anyone out.)

We don't all help at each session (we'd have more testers than testees sometimes). We usually work it out so that at least six can be at a session with three handling the code tests and three handling the written tests. Usually a couple more show up, though. But we can always use more people.

If you have an interest in helping out others getting their licenses, this is one easy way you can help. It doesn't require a lot of time. If you're interested, contact the ARRL and ask for more

information. They'll send you an information packet and you'll be required to complete an open-book review (kinda like a test) to be certified. That's it! Or contact Erik KGXE for questions about our PPRAA team. Looking forward to seeing you on the team!

### OM/YL LUNCH BUNCH

The October Lunch Bunch will get together for lunch and visiting on October, 16.

We will meet at The Country Buffet, 751 N. Academy Blvd, at The Citadel Crossing.

This location will enable a couple of people to attend as it closer to their place of employment.

Hope to see YOU there around noon time.

73,  
WAØMNL, Rosie...471-9965.

(We'll be there!  
Tnx ...Ed.)

### FROM THE HISTORIAN

The following attended the PPRAA meeting 25 years ago on October 11, 1972.

Dale WØOLDV, Wayne W2TPV, Marty WB2VYK, Harlan WAØYVS, Chuck WAØZCS, Don WØITY, Pete KØUDG, Ida WAØNTA, Jerry WBØGBT, Margaret WNØGDK, Dean WAØPJH, Mike WØVJ, Mike WBØHCK, Charles WAØZZS

### DO YOU REMEMBER!

Jody KAØROZ

(The editor remembers KØUDG, Pete and WAØPJH, Dean!)

If you sell any item, please email or call the editor to add to or discontinue your ad.

Thanks,  
Editor



Dits and Bits

For Sale:  
Portable Antenna base..  
KBØFNM, Russ...471-9965

### For Sale:

- Kenwood TS-830 & MC-50 mike \$500.
  - Ameritron AL-811 Amplifier \$450.
  - MFJ-202B RF Noise Bridge \$35.
  - MFJ-949B Versa Tuner II \$60
  - Heathkit HD-1410 Electronic Keyer \$15.
  - Digital VT-220 Terminal \$20.
  - Lear Seigler ADM-3A Dumb terminal \$5.
- Contact: E.J. ,KDØNB, at 495-9007.

### Meeting at Rob's house

Today (Sunday, 9/14) Katie Freidel came by my house to discuss where West Middle School (WMS) is heading with amateur radio and to discuss the status of their grant proposal. Also attending were Bill and Moe Pierce, KDØJU and WBØRTF, and my wife Dorothy, KCØBSY.

Katie has located the person at WMS that knows what equipment has been donated to WMS several years ago, but she still doesn't have a list of the donated equipment. Meanwhile she is preparing a grant proposal. We spent most of the time brainstorming some ideas how

amateur radio can be used in her classroom. She intends to request funding to fund as much as possible of a complete HF and satellite station for her school.

(The satellite station would partially support the space shuttle / mission control mockup installation already under construction at WMS. You may recall I mentioned that WMS has received scrap parts and plans from NASA to construct such a mockup.)

To support the proposal, she's identified uses in geography, sociology, mathematics, science and language. I've put together a tentative list of amateur radio equipment which can be used, assuming no limitations on funds. We'll break this down into two lists, must have and nice-to-have, the next time we meet if funds are limited to less than what she'd like to get. The next time we meet will be on September 27, location and time TBD.

Any of you are invited. Just drop me an e-mail as sort of an RSVP. As the date gets closer, we'll figure out where and at what time.

73/Rob  
wb7wht

---

CQ Jamboree-On-The-Air de  
wa0vtu

This year is the 40th anniversary of Scouting's International JOTA (Jamboree-On-The-Air) which is being held the third weekend of October.

Setup for the event will begin Friday October 17th at 18:00 local time, take down will occur Saturday the 18th at 18:00 local time. We, the Amateur Community in Pikes Peak area, are working at making JOTA an educational and exciting for Scouts in our area.

Boy Scout Troop 287 is hosting the event at their location: Wilson United Methodist Church 6460 Flying "W" Ranch Road Colorado Springs, 90919

Troop 287 will be constructing (lashing) 2 wooden towers about 150 feet apart just east of the parking lot. I asked the Boy Scout leader, Jerry Hulsey, about making the towers 1/2 wavelength high.... Well... at least he didn't hit me; he just gave one of the stares.... The towers are to be used to hold a multi-band wire antenna for 80 through 10 meters, which the Scouts want to build as well. A HF-SSB station will be located with this antenna system.

Just north of the parking lot and between the church and the Scout hut will be the HF-CW station. I'm sure it's no surprise that k0ter plans to be setting up his station for this event.

Tom McDaniel (n0ntx) will be setting up his AMSAT station just west of the parking lot. Tom took some measurements of the horizon, looks like some digital "birds" will be visible.

The two-some of Russ and Rosie will be setting up a station designed to juggle message traffic and VHF communications. This will be from their trailer located next to the AMSAT station.

Amateur TV (ATV) will make an appearance. And we are working on getting a cluster of hams together to work packet.

K5baz will be putting one of his 10,000-watt FM transmitters (less the transformers) on display. He will be available to talk with scouts about amateur radio, and commercial radio or TV. Dan has been an owner of a number of radio and TV stations, and has been a member of the board of directors to one of the major networks.

Wilson Methodist Church is holding their annual Bazaar that same Saturday; lunch will be available for a nominal fee. Try this: "I think I'll take you out to eat, then you can go shopping and I'll demonstrate Amateur



radio to some kids" Now I ask you, where can you go wrong, food, shopping, and civic duty.

Yes I did say there is food available Saturday at lunch. Although the troop offered the operators' free lunch, we politely turned them down. The offer for coffee was accepted though... hey, we're not total fools.

Demo Equipment might be available. Although they did not have any equipment on site when I called, it looks like ETO will let us demo a station (transceiver and linear). I do not know anything about the transceiver, but the amplifier will likely be a 91B, there is an outside chance of getting an 87A.

Oh, for those wondering, yes 110AC can be pulled to most locations.

These two days show promise of being an exciting fun time for Scouts and Hams alike. Please join the fun, we still need a lot of help, equipment, and experiences.

#### People Needed:

Antenna person to work with Troop 287 Operators'  
5 to 6 people to help move a really large transmitter  
5 or more setup people  
5 or more take down people  
1 Photographer  
1 Writer/Editor (Send articles to Scouting and QST)

#### Equipment Needed:

1 HF SSB station (if ETO does not come through)  
1 packet radio station  
5 Heavy-duty power cords for 110AC (100 to 300 feet)  
1 heavy-duty tent for the AMSAT equipment  
1 heavy-duty tent (optional)  
1 QSL card collection (famous people?)

Names as of 20-Sep-97:

Name	Call
What	email

Dan Scott	kb0ppm
Coordinator	dan.scott@mc1.com

Ginger Hipszky	n0uod
Coordinator	ghipszky@kktv.com

Mike Stansberry	k0ter
HF - CW	jms@col.hp.com

Tom McDaniel	n0ntx
AMSAT	tommcd@ix.netcom.com

Sheldon Radin	kf0ur
whatever-HF	sheldon.radin@mc1.com

Larry Dunn	n9hws
whatever - HF	ldunn@rmi.net

John Roth Jr.	n0qjs
Certificates/ATV	n0qjs@kktv.com

Rosie Calaway	wa0mml
Message/VHF	russrosie@kktv.com

Russ Calaway	kb0fnm
Message/VHF	russrosie@kktv.com

Rob Roller	wb7whf
whatever	RollerR@usa.net

Jeff Boyes	n0jlh
whatever/packet	jboyes@usa.net

Bill Pierce	kd0ju
HF - Sat PM	kd0ju-1@juno.com

Moe Pierce	wb0rtf
HF - Sat PM	kd0ju-1@juno.com

Cutis Knott	kb2zvx
VHF	knott3x@aol.com

Site Contact	
Jerry Hulsey	
Scout Master	jerry@intertest.net

Scout Contact	
Gorden Dixon	
Scout Volunteer	survivor@pcisys.net

Scout Executives	
Jerry Orr	
District Director	Bpaddle61@aol.com

Rocky Raby	
Scout Publication	rocky90901@aol.com

For more information, contact:  
Dan Scott  
Dan.scott@mc1.com  
635-0871 (Home before 21:00)  
535-1243 (Work)

From The ARRL Letter  
Vol. 16, No. 37  
September 19, 1997

## IT'S ANDY THOMAS FOR WENDY LAWRENCE ABOARD MIR

Astronaut Andy Thomas is studying for his ham ticket in anticipation of spending several months aboard the Russian Mir space station starting in January. He'll replace Wendy Lawrence, KC5KII, in the Mir rotation. Lawrence originally was supposed to replace Mike Foale, KB5UAC, aboard Mir later this month, but in the wake of the problems aboard the space station over the past few months, however, NASA determined it would prefer to have an astronaut aboard Mir who could fit the Russian space suits--in case an astronaut needed to participate in a space walk as Foale has had to do during his Mir stay. Lawrence is too small to wear the Russian space gear, and that same thinking could have been behind swapping Thomas for Lawrence on the subsequent Mir posting.

Lawrence will, however, be aboard the September 25 shuttle flight, STS-86, that will deliver US astronaut David Wolf, KC5VPF, to Mir. NASA decided this week that Mir was safe enough to keep an astronaut

aboard. This month's rendezvous and docking will also deliver supplies and return Foale to Earth from his four-month stay aboard Mir. In addition to Wolf and Lawrence, the Atlantis crew will include Commander Jim Wetherbee, Pilot Mike Bloomfield, and Mission Specialists Scott Parazynski, KC5RSY, Jean-Loup Chretien, and Vladimir Titov, KD5AOS. Parazynski and Titov will conduct a spacewalk to retrieve some science experiments from the outside of the station. STS-86 will mark the 20th Atlantis' 20th space mission and the 87th shuttle flight in the program's history.

Wolf, 41, is both an electrical engineer and a medical doctor. A native of Indianapolis, Wolf is single. He holds 11 US patents and has published more than 40 technical papers. Wolf became an astronaut in 1990. He served as a mission specialist astronaut aboard space shuttle Columbia (STS-58) in late 1993. Wolf has completed training to replace Foale for a four-month stay on Mir and continue the permanent US presence on the station that began with Shannon Lucid in 1996.

Thomas, a native of Australia, is 45 and single. He holds a PhD in mechanical engineering, and he became an astronaut in 1993. Thomas flew his first flight in space on Endeavour in May, 1996.--NASA

## MIR CREW FIXES COMPUTER--AGAIN

The Mir computer crashed again earlier this week, but the crew cobbled together enough spare parts to put it back into service within a day.

Sunday's computer failure was the fourth in three months. The computer went down only last week, sending the Russian space station spinning in orbit.

The malfunction was the latest in a series since Mir was damaged in a collision June 25 with an unmanned Progress supply rocket. It forced the crew to turn off lights in most of the Mir's modules. The crew had to fire thrusters to re-aim the spacecraft in the right direction to get sunlight on its solar panels.

A replacement computer and system parts reportedly are aboard Mir, and a completely new computer is to be sent up on a Progress supply rocket next month. The Russians have asked NASA to ferry another new computer to Mir aboard the shuttle later this month as well.

To top the computer failure, the three-man Mir crew, including US astronaut Mike Foale, KB5UAC, took refuge late Monday in the Soyuz transporter as a US military satellite passed by too close for comfort. Reports on just how close the satellite was vary from 470 yards to three-fourths of a mile, depending on the source.

The problems followed in the wake of a damning report from NASA Inspector General Roberta Gross that outlined a host of unsafe conditions and situations that US astronauts have faced aboard Mir. Those concerns were aired during a House Science Committee hearing on Mir safety issues this week. NASA has maintained, however, that Mir remains safe and still plans to post astronaut David Wolf, KC5VPF, to Mir later this month for a four-month stay.

Meanwhile, the new, experimental 70-cm ham radio frequency for Mir, 437.650 MHz, is said to be working well. MIREX will continue the frequency swap test until September 28, then return to 2 meters. BJ Arts, WT0N, reports having an enjoyable chat with Foale on September 8. Foale told Arts that when he gets back to Earth, he wants to take a vacation "somewhere warm."

Foale said he enjoys seeing the .jpg photo files some hams have posted but suggested keeping

the size of any .jpg files to 10 kB or less.

Foale returns to Earth next week aboard the space shuttle Atlantis.

#### MIR VETERAN, JOHN BLAHA, KC5TZQ, TO RETIRE FROM NASA

Shuttle astronaut and Russian space station Mir veteran, John Blaha, KC5TZQ, will retire from NASA later this month. Blaha will become the assistant vice president, Integration Engineering, for USAA Corp in San Antonio, Texas. While aboard Mir late last year, Blaha made ham radio history when he carried out the first scheduled school QSO between unlicensed students and a NASA astronaut-ham living aboard Mir. Not long before that historic QSO, the FCC had approved third-party contacts with Blaha from the Russian space station.

Selected as an astronaut in 1980, Blaha has extensive flight experience. He flew on six separate shuttle missions during his career. He was the pilot

aboard Discovery for the STS-29 mission in March 1989 and flew again on Discovery as pilot for STS-33 in November 1989. Blaha commanded two shuttle missions, STS-43 in August 1991 aboard Atlantis and STS-58 on Columbia in November 1993.

Following extensive training at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center outside Moscow, Blaha was named as an extended-duration crew member to fly on the Mir space station. He joined the Mir crew in September 1996 and returned to Earth in January 1997.--NASA

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#### From the Editor

I would like to thank the following people for articles and sales items submitted: Rob WB7WHT, Ron NKØP, Les KCØNC, Rosie WAØMNL, Dan KBØPPM, Jody KAØROZ and E.J. KDØNB.

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